

GOVERNMENTAL GOSSIP.

Events of Interest in and About the Departments.

THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN.

The National Banks—Callers at the White House—General and Personal.

Public Debt Reduction.

The public debt reduction for May is estimated at about \$4,000,000.

The Postmaster-General.

Postmaster-General Dickinson was detained at home by a slight indisposition to-day, General Stevenson taking his place.

Checks for June Interest.

Treasurer Hyatt mailed to-day 10,281 checks, aggregating \$2,148,000.15, in payment of interest due June 1, 1888, on registered 4 1/2 per cent. bonds of the funded loan of \$181,000,000.

Bond Transactions To-day.

Registered: \$4,822,000, 177,000—Offerings: \$4,822,000, 177,000—Coupons: \$4,822,000, 177,000—Total: \$4,822,000, 177,000.

New National Banks.

The Comptroller of the Currency has authorized the First National Bank of Rockwell, Tex.; the Citizens National Bank of St. Paul, Minn.; and the First National Bank of Redlands, Cal., to begin business, with a capital of \$50,000.

At the White House.

Among the President's callers to-day were Senators George, Walcott, Vest and Colquhoun; Speaker Carlisle, Representatives Stevenson, Dargan and Campbell; and Colonel W. J. Switzer, with Rev. Mr. Campbell and W. J. Switzer of St. Joseph, Mo.

Exchange of Army Stations.

One-quarter of the United States army will be on the move to-morrow. On April 13 orders were issued by the adjutant-general directing ten regiments to exchange stations, the migration to take place not later than June 1. The changes were published in full in *The Critic* of April 11.

The President's Return.

The President, Secretaries Fairchild, Whitney, and Endicott, and Colonel Lamont, returned from New York last night on a special car. The train was an hour late, and the party did not reach Washington until 10:15. Mrs. Cleveland joined the party at Germantown and returned home with them.

Frauds on the Pension Laws.

The Commissioner of Pensions is advised that Paul Belmont of Campbell County, Ky., is in jail at Covington on a charge of forgery in his own pension claim. W. H. Ellingwood and I. W. Shipman have been convicted at Indianapolis for making false affidavits in Ellingwood's pension claim, and are under indictment for receiving illegal attorneys fees. Algeo Johnson of Ottumwa, Minn., is charged with receiving a pension in his own name, and is now in jail in his claim as widow of N. B. Johnson. Howard Fouts has been arrested by Special Examiner Dugan in Pennsylvania for falsifying pension claims. The hearing to take place June 5.

DEPARTMENT PERSONALS.

Carlisle Harban of the General Post-office Department is in New York on private business.

Secretary Endicott has returned from New York. His duties during his absence were performed by Chief Clerk Tweedle.

Secretary Fairchild returned to the city last evening, and was at the Treasury this morning.

Mr. William T. Hearst of the Paymaster-General's office will leave June 20 on a twenty-day leave.

Mr. John A. Pierre, register clerk of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, is on a vacation.

W. W. Clapp of the Interior Department has returned to his duties in that office.

Mr. Emilio Hulek of the Printing Department of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will leave the city on June 2 for two weeks.

Mr. Curtis P. Smith returned to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing this morning.

Mr. T. Kent of the Paymaster-General's office, who has been in New York for some days on special business, has returned.

Mr. Thomas J. Stewart of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing takes a leave of absence June 5.

Miss L. C. Brooker of the General Land Office is visiting friends in Kentucky.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The Galena has arrived at Norfolk.

The Yantic has sailed for Port Royal, S. C., for Hayti.

Private Ferdinand J. C. Behrens, Company A, Tenth Infantry, has been committed to the Government—Insane Asylum.

Leaves of Absence.—Second Lieutenant Henry R. Adams, Twenty-third Infantry, leave extended twenty-three days. First Lieutenant F. Von Schroeder, R. M. Twelfth Infantry, for one month; Major James R. Roche, paymaster, for seven days. Major W. H. Eckels, paymaster, for six days.

The Scottish Rite Building.

The cornerstone of the Scottish Rite sanctuary, on G street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, will not be laid until June 7. At 10 o'clock on that day the Masons will assemble at Masonic Temple. The line of march will be down Ninth street to Pennsylvania avenue, to Fifteenth street, to G street, to building site. The Scottish Rite choir will render music on the occasion, and the ceremony will be a very imposing one.

A Highly Interesting Tailsman.

Dr. B. B. Serber has a curious watch-chain of oriental pattern, set with a peculiar stone, bearing some resemblance to a mosaic, which was once the property of the Khedive of Egypt. It was one of his friends it was donated by the ruler of that country and by him presented to Dr. Serber. The stone is said to have come from the bottom of the Red Sea and to have been used by the tailsman of one of the chiefs of Strangers of India. The man became a prisoner of the Khedive and the stone was one of his treasures. It was donated to the American in recognition of the latter's bravery in saving the life of one of the Khedive's favorite courtiers. Mose was rescued from a grave in the Nile by the American.—[Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sunday Excursion Down the Bay.

Special train will leave B. and O. Depot Sunday, June 3, at 10 a. m. for Bay Ridge, thence via the mammoth steamer Columbia, the largest and finest steamer in the Chesapeake. Mose will be furnished on the boat. Round trip only \$1; children, 50 cts.

THE NEW CITY POSTOFFICE.

Full Text of the Bill Introduced in the House by Mr. Richardson.

Following is the full text of the bill presented in the House by Mr. Richardson on Monday last for the selection of a site and the erection of a new City Postoffice in Washington:

"Be it enacted, That the Postmaster-General, the Secretary of the Interior and the Supervising Architect of the Treasury are hereby constituted a commission to select a site for the erection of a postoffice building in the city of Washington, District of Columbia.

"Sec. 2. That the site selected by said commission shall be adopted when approved by the President of the United States.

"Sec. 3. That if the commission shall select a site on property owned by the United States Government then \$500,000 or so much thereof as is necessary is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the erection of a postoffice building on the site selected by the commission in accordance with plans to be prepared by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, to be approved by said commission.

"Sec. 4. That if said commission shall select private property for a site for such postoffice building, there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as is necessary for the purchase of such private property by said commission.

"Sec. 5. That if said commission shall select private property for the site for such postoffice building, and if in the judgment of the commission the sum demanded for such property is above its cash value, then said commission is hereby authorized to have proceedings commenced in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for the condemnation of such property.

"Sec. 6. That said commission shall select private property for the site for such postoffice building, and if in the judgment of the commission the sum demanded for such property is above its cash value, then said commission is hereby authorized to have proceedings commenced in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for the condemnation of such property.

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IN CONGRESS TO-DAY.

The Legislative Appropriation Bill Recommended in the House.

DILATORY TARIFF TACTICS.

The Mills Bill Debate Resumed Under the Five-Minute Rule.

Mr. Blair presented to the Senate to-day petitions containing 7,000 names of people all over the country, asking for the enactment of prohibition in the District.

The conference reports on the bills incorporating the Eokington and Soldiers' Home Railway Company were adopted.

Upon motion of Mr. Fairman, the special order for the consideration of the District railroad bills was postponed until June 20.

The report was made on a substitute for the bill authorizing Wm. McGarran to carry his claim before the Court of Claims.

A favorable report was submitted on the Postal Telegraph bill.

Mr. Gorman introduced a bill to incorporate the Underground Cable and Conduit Company of the District. The bill names T. B. Ferguson, James Sloan, Wm. H. B. Smith, and H. E. Zeigler of Baltimore; Henry A. Dodge, John A. Baker, Washington, and C. S. Carter of Virginia as incorporators. The capital stock is \$100,000, but may be increased to \$500,000. The company is organized to construct conduits for the reception of electric telephone wires, the same to be rented out.

The bill also provides that the company may lay wires for the electric light and power, and may charge toll for such conveyance over its wires. The company may lay cables in the Potomac River, and may use the same for the purpose of conveying telegraphic messages. The bill is given to open any street or alley for the purpose of laying such wires. The Senate then took up the bill to quiet title of settlers on the Des Moines River lands in Iowa.

THE HOUSE.

In the House to-day Mr. Spaulding rose to a question of privilege, and had read at the Clerk's desk an article in the New York Tribune charging him with delaying the passage of the bill placing John C. Fremont on the retired list. Mr. Spaulding denied the imputation. He said the Republicans had practiced a fraud upon the innocent and unsuspecting Tribune reporter. The Democratic members of the committee had been told by the Tribune that the bill was not to be reported, and the Republicans against it, and the Republicans were responsible for the delay.

The Legislative and Executive Appropriation bill was then taken up, and the different amendments were voted on in their regular order.

When it had been considered, Mr. Randall arose and said there were forty-two salaries left blank which he desired to have filled by the adoption of the amendment which he would send to the Clerk's desk.

Mr. Buchanan criticised the committee for bringing in such a poorly-constructed bill.

Objection was made to the amendment, and on motion of Mr. Randall the bill was referred to the committee.

Mr. Mills asked that the call of committees be dispensed with, but as more business had been ordered, the call was not made.

Very few reports were made, and at 12 o'clock the House adjourned.

Mr. McKinley asked that the reports be read, but Mr. Mills again objected to the consideration of the bill by paragraphs was begun.

Mr. Adams moved to strike out the last day of July, 1888, and insert the last day of June, 1888, for the purpose of the law to go into effect. The extension was for the benefit of the manufacturers. He said he had introduced the amendment, and offered another substituting January 2, 1889, his object being he said, to gain the consent of his constituents.

Mr. Bayne offered to yield him his five minutes, but objection was made and sustained by the Chair.

Mr. McKim then offered a dilatory amendment to the lumber clause, and wanted to know if there was no one present to object to the amendment.

Mr. Reed offered another dilatory amendment, and advocated protection for the lumber.

Mr. Weaver said the object of the bill was to destroy the lumber trusts in the West, and Mr. Wilson of Minnesota favored it.

Mr. Mills then cited a petition in favor of free lumber that had been received by the Ways and Means Committee, while Mr. Reed was speaking.

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